



STATE OF WASHINGTON

SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION

Jefferson Building, PO Box 43124 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3124 • (360) 688-8511

MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2025 9:00am – 12:00pm

1500 Jefferson Building, Room 2330

Olympia, WA 98516

And Zoom

Members Present:

Hon. J. Wesley Saint Clair, Chair
Jeremiah Bourgeois
Hon. Sharonda Amamilo
Greg Link (proxy: Kate Benward)
Secretary Tim Lang (proxy: Mac Pevey)
Ramona Brandes
Hon. Karen Donohue
Hon. Jeffery Swan
Commissioner Tye Menser
Councilmember Carmen Rivera
Norrie Gregoire
Chief Brian Smith/Chief Kal Fuller
Dr. Vasiliki Georgoulas-Sherry
Dr. Esther Matthews
Kecia Rongen
Rochelle Cleland
Hon. Veronica Galván
Rep. Lauren Davis
Rep. Jenny Graham

Members Absent:

Jennifer Redman
Jon Tunheim
Amy Anselmi
Hon. Josephine Wiggs
Senator Claire Wilson

Staff:

Keri-Anne Jetzer
Dr. Lauren Knoth-Peterson, PSPRC
Whitney Hunt, SOPB

Guest:

Brad Meryhew, Chair, SOPB

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Judge Saint Clair called the meeting to order and welcomed new members Representative Lauren Davis and Representative Jenny Graham to the commission.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #25-59: APPROVE JUNE 2025 MEETING MINUTES

MOVED: Ramona Brandes

SECONDED: Dr. Matthews

PASSED: Passed

ABSTAINED: Kecia Rongen, Judge Saint Clair

III. SENTENCING ALTERNATIVES - FTOW

Keri-Anne presented to the members several FTOW proposals that were mentioned at the last meeting. Members started discussing the proposals.

Proposal: Make Class B violent offenses eligible for FTOW

Ramona Brandes asked if it was possible to get data on the number of convictions per year by offense. Keri-Anne said she would be able to obtain that data from the Caseload Forecast Council's Statistical Summary reports. Ramona also thought knowing the 0 criminal history score sentencing range for the offenses would be helpful for members who are less familiar with the sentencing grid.

Judge Swan expressed concern about allowing Drive-by Shooting to be eligible for FTOW and would want to see more data on who is being charged, who is convicted, and racial disparity related to the offense. Ramona Brandes offered to collect the racial breakdown of convictions from the American Equity and Justice Group dashboard.

Rep. Graham talked about cases of Drive-by Shooting that occurred in Spokane. These crimes are dangerous to the community, and she is concerned about the message that is going out (e.g. will only receive a slap on the hand), especially with a crime that is skyrocketing with youth. Roshelle Cleland was unsure why Assault of a Child 2 was being considered for FTOW based on her understanding of the crime that the victim is 13 or younger, the behavior was intentional and causes pain.

Ramona Brandes replied that drive-by shootings that cause harm would not be eligible for FTOW. She went on to say that a judge ultimately determines if the circumstances are appropriate for the FTOW. It is not automatic, but rather a request to the court that considers all the facts in the case. The proposals are meant as ways to consider expanding the utilization of FTOW and if it is an appropriate expansion for the courts to have the opportunity to consider. Often, she continued, when a FTOW is requested, the defendant is already in some sort of remediation or treatment program, trying to make amends, and that is demonstrated to the court.

Rep. Davis shared with members her experience in unintended consequences when expanding the Mental Health Sentencing Alternative (MHSA). Because those with convictions for violent offenses are not eligible for DOSA but are eligible for MHSA, she observed that MHSA is being used inappropriately with violent offenses with disastrous results.

Chair Judge Saint Clair suggested revisiting the components of FTOW to bring new members up to speed and refresh current members' memories.

Judge Swan spoke about a few of the listed offenses that he might be able to support. Judge Saint Clair remarked that individuals convicted of violent offenses are often ineligible for treatment programs but research has indicated that they are the ones who can be helped the most by those programs.

Commissioner Menser suggested instead of looking at the worst case or even the typical case within each class of crime, to look at the least egregious levels of conduct under the class of crime that would be appropriate for judicial discretion.

There was discussion about the lack of justice available to the person who was harmed by crime.

Keri-Anne provided a quick review of the FTOW information and data presented by Dr. KP at the previous SGC meeting. She also explained one of the listed proposals that she suggested, which was to create a prison- and jail-based FTOW.

Judge Saint Clair thought Rep. Davis's question in the chat about why eligible FTOW sentences aren't being granted and what are the barriers to it was a great question and asked members if they had any insight, noting no WAPA representative was available to respond.

Whitney Hunt offered on behalf of the PSPRC to set up a meeting before the next SGC meeting to brief interested members on the FTOW information that has been presented thus far. Several members expressed interest. Judge Saint Clair halted further discussion on FTOW until all members have been brought up to speed.

IV. UPDATE ON WORK PLAN

Judge Saint Clair thanked Mr. Meryhew for his attendance at today's meeting.

Keri-Anne briefed members on the issues that have resulted in the lengthy time obtaining the requested data from DOC and ISRB for the SGC's work plan. She noted that this is the first time since 2018 that the SGC has not been working on a legislatively directed work and that it was also the first time that the SGC has had assistance from a researcher to assist with work that is not legislatively directed. The process has started moving and Keri-Anne anticipated the concerns have been addressed.

Chair Judge Saint Clair suggested a motion to clarify the SGC's need for the data and that the PSPRC is obtaining and using that data on behalf of the SGC with the hope that it would alleviate any additional concerns.

MOTION #25-60: TO REQUEST NECESSARY DATA FROM DOC/ISRB/CFC AGENCY AND DIRECT THE PSPRC TO CONDUCT RESEARCH TO ASSESS THE LANDSCAPE OF SENTENCING ALTERNATIVES AND INDETERMINATE SENTENCING IN WASHINGTON STATE SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE SRA.

MOVED: Judge Saint Clair

SECONDED: Jeremiah Bourgeois

PASSED: Passed

ABSTAINED: Kecia Rongen, Mac Pevey, Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry

Brad Meryhew expressed excitement in having Dr. KP and her team available to provide this kind of information to the SGC/SOPB and the Legislature. He believed that it will lead to better decisions and offered his assistance in supporting this process in any way he can.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Keri-Anne reported that she met with OFM's attorney about SGC's AAG/AGO request. She relayed that because it is the governor who has the authority to bring the SGC into an emergency meeting, it would be up to the governor's office to seek clarification on when they can/cannot act, how much they can/cannot do, etc. Once the governor has directed the SGC to meet under these statutes, the SGC could then seek clarification from the governor on the work request at that time. That request has been completed.

Jeremiah Bourgeois, Chair of the Juvenile Committee, provided a status report to the members. The work on the sentencing alternatives is moving forward, specifically the Option B alternative. Jeremiah has requested presentations by Katie Hurley and Dr. Matthews. He is seeking presentations from other members of the Juvenile Committee in their areas of expertise, as well. The Juvenile Committee sought clarification from the SGC as to whether a second look-type proposal found in The Youth Hope Act (2025) fell under the sentencing alternative directive or not. After discussion, the SGC determined that second look-type of actions did not fall under the definition of a sentencing alternative and suggested it would be more appropriate under the Juvenile Committee's review of the sentencing grid but did want the Juvenile Committee to include diversion programs in its review of sentencing alternatives.

Dr. Matthews provided an update on the Jail Modernization Task Force. The Task Force submitted an interim report at the end of June and received funding to continue through December 2025. They will continue to refine the proposals and provide comprehensive recommendations for the Legislature. Keri-Anne offered to send the interim report to members.

Judge Saint Clair read a comment Rep. Davis put in the chat that read: "In light of the recent letter from SCJA that expressed a desire for an ISRB-type process in lieu of judicial resentencing and outlined the various pitfalls of judicial resentencing, coupled

with the legislature's expressed interest in a conversation about parole, some of the second look judicial resentencing bills may be rendered moot.”

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No member of the public was in attendance.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION



8/8/2025

Judge J. Wesley Saint Clair (Ret), Chair

Date